



12 September 2020

Utah State Legislature
Business and Labor Interim Committee

Dear Members:

The Utah Psychological Association joins its colleagues in the mental and behavioral health disciplines, as well as Utah leaders, in concern about the shortage of professionals to address the mental and behavioral health needs of Utah citizens.

However, it is essential that only appropriately and optimally trained individuals be able to provide important and needed mental and behavioral health services. Patient safety and consumer protections are of the utmost importance in any delivery of quality mental and behavioral health services.

We strongly urge that any consideration of expansion of scope of practice in the area of behavioral and mental health address the significant and extensive training necessary to provide crucial and quality professional services.

We consider it an important part of our commitment to ethical and quality standards of care to collaborate with the Utah Physician Assistant Association to insure that the appropriate, important, and essential skills be attained that are necessary to provide the level of behavioral and mental health services that Utah citizens deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Professional Affairs